

Message Text

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ORIGIN LAB-04

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LABOR:HBLACKMAN

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TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

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ALSO INFO FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: ELAB, BE

SUBJECT:COMPENSATION COSTS IN RAYON STAPLE FIBER INDUSTRY

INTERNATIONAL LABOR AFFAIRS BUREAU (ILAB) OF THE DEPARTMENT
OF LABOR REQUESTS EMBASSY ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING INFORMA-
TION ON COMPENSATION COSTS FOR PRODUCTION WORKERS IN THE
RAYON STAPLE FIBER INDUSTRY FOR USE IN CONNECTION WITH AN
ANTI-DUMPING CASE.

ILAB HAS OBTAINED FROM THE BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS (BLS)
DATA ON ESTIMATED HOURLY COMPENSATION OF PRODUCTION WORKERS
IN THE TOTAL SYNTHETIC FIBER INDUSTRY FOR BELGIUM. HOWEVER,
DATA ARE NOT AVAILABLE FOR RAYON STAPLE FIBER WORKERS FROM
THE SOURCES USED BY BLS.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 045567

BLS ESTIMATES THAT TOTAL COMPENSATION PER HOUR WORKED OF
PRODUCTION WORKERS IN SYNTHETIC FIBER INDUSTRIES IN BELGIUM
WAS 312.0 FRANCS IN APRIL 1977. TOTAL HOURLY COMPENSATION
INCLUDES ALL DIRECT PAYMENTS MADE TO THE WORKER (PAY FOR
TIME WORKED, PAY FOR VACATIONS, HOLIDAYS, AND OTHER LEAVE,
ALL BONUSES, AND PAY IN KIND) BEFORE PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS OF

ANY KIND, PLUS EMPLOYER EXPENDITURES FOR LEGALLY-REQUIRED INSURANCE PROGRAMS AND CONTRACTUAL AND PRIVATE PLANS FOR THE BENEFIT OF EMPLOYEES. THE ESTIMATE IS BASED ON AVERAGE

ADJUSTMENT FOR ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION NOT INCLUDED IN PUBLISHED EARNINGS. THE AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS ARE FROM THE APRIL AND OCTOBER SURVEY OF EARNINGS AND HOURS CONDUCTED BY THE INSTITUT NATIONAL DE STATISTIQUE (INS). BLS MAKES PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES OF AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS FOR PERIODS SINCE THE LATEST PUBLISHED DATA (OCTOBER 1976) BY UPDATING THE EARNINGS ACCORDING TO THE TREND IN THE INDEX OF CONTRACTUAL WAGES COMPILED BY THE MINISTERE DE L'EMPLOI ET DU TRAVAIL. THE RATIOS OF ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION TO PUBLISHED EARNINGS ARE BASED ON DATA FROM THE 1972 SURVEY OF LABOR COSTS IN INDUSTRY CONDUCTED BY INS FOR THE STATISTICAL OFFICE OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES (EUROSTAT). THE RATIOS ARE UPDATED FROM 1972 BY BLS USING DATA FROM THE INS INDEX OF LABOR COSTS--ACTUALISATION DU COUT SALARIAL POUR LES OUVRIERS DE L'INDUSTRIE--AND, FOR THE MOST RECENT PERIOD, CHANGES IN SOCIAL SECURITY CONTRIBUTION RATES.

ILAB WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING ANY INFORMATION THAT MIGHT BE AVAILABLE TO IMPROVE THE BLS ESTIMATES--PARTICULARLY TOTAL EMPLOYMENT COST OR BASIC WAGE DATA IN NATIONAL CURRENCY FOR RAYON STAPLE UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 045567

FIBER WORKERS--FROM UNPUBLISHED WAGE SURVEY STATISTICS, MANUFACTURERS' REPORTS, OR OTHER SOURCES. ILAB WOULD ALSO LIKE TO RECEIVE INFORMATION ON THE EMPLOYMENT COSTS FOR SKILLED CHEMICAL ENGINEERS IN THE RAYON STAPLE FIBER OR TOTAL SYNTHETIC FIBER INDUSTRY. ILAB WOULD APPRECIATE AN EARLY REPLY. VANCE

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ISecure: 1
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